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[54] COMPUTER APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR GRAPHICAL FLIP BOOK

[75] Inventor: **Kenneth C. Knowlton**, Merrimack, Mass.

[73] Assignee: **Wang Laboratories, Inc.**, Lowell, Mass.

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[58] **Field of Search** 395/155-161, 395/152, 128, 119, 275; 340/723, 721

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Primary Examiner—Gary V. Harkcom

Assistant Examiner—John E. Breene

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Kenneth L. Milik

[57] **ABSTRACT**

Computer apparatus and method replicates a book in screen views of a video display unit. A book representation is formed of a multiplicity of entities positioned in a series and successively overlapping each other. Data of only non-overlapped entities or portions thereof are viewable. Processor means changes display of the series such that desired entities are displayed non-overlapped in a respective position in the series. Each entity succeeding the desired entity in the series overlaps a respective succeeding entity, if any, and each entity preceding the desired entity in the series overlaps a respective preceding entity, if any, to display the desired entity non-overlapped in the series. Screen view position of viewable data in the series thus changes as a function of entity providing the data and corresponding serial position of the entity. A processor procedure adjusts position of user definable tabs coupled to entities to maximize viewability of tabs. Page numbers and other markers are employed to provide indications of the positions of the entities in the series. Alternatively, entities nearest the non-overlapped entity are less overlapped by neighboring entities than entities farther away from the non-overlapped entity are overlapped by respective neighboring entities.

27 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets